

Work of Former Heber Woman



Murals in the Church of the Transfiguration, Catholic, in Los Angeles, Cal., are a part of the decoration of the church that has occupied seven years of work for Mrs. Velda Buys Gateley, lower, Heber native and Pacific coast artist noted for religious paintings.

RELIGIOUS MURALIST

Utah Artist Sends Exhibits, Then Visits Centennial

Tribune Special
By HAROLD H. SMITH

HEBER.—One of the most interesting persons to return to Utah for the Centennial celebration was Velda Buys Gateley, prominent California artist whose church paintings are famous.

At the request of Mrs. Vilate McMillan, a friend, Mrs. Gateley first decided to send a few of her paintings to be exhibited here in

the arts division of the Wasatch county fair. As time for the fair approached, the desire to return to her former home and see the celebration caused her to decide to vacation in Utah.

Publisher's Daughter

Born in Heber, Mrs. Gateley is a daughter of William Buys, founder of the Wasatch Wave, Heber's only newspaper, and Sarah Jane McDonald Buys. She lived here until after her father's death, when the family moved to Salt Lake City.

"I had always been interested in art, especially Christian church art," she said, "so as soon as I could I went to Chicago Art Institute, and I have studied there and at the University of Utah."

Ten years of research on Christian church art was done by Mrs. Gateley, during which time she discovered that nearly all such art has been done by or for the Catholic church. With this background of research, she has almost constantly held commissions for decorating Catholic churches and cathedrals.

Finishes L. A. Murals

She has just finished decorating the Church of the Transfiguration in Los Angeles. The murals in the church have occupied her talents for the past seven years. Prior to starting on this project, she had done 30 paintings for St. Anthony's Catholic church in Long Beach, Cal.

Mrs. Gateley is now planning to go to the Pacific northwest, where there are several large church projects pending.

In her work Mrs. Gateley is assisted by her husband, Frank R. Gateley. Their son, Frank Robert Gateley Jr., also assists in the work.

Mrs. Gateley pointed out that one piece of her work is in the McKinley ward chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 1740 S. State, Salt Lake City.

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Velda Buys Gateley



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"I have always wanted to do, and will paint some day some of the great scenes from L D S church history," she said.

BOOKS... ART

Accent on Church Work

Former Utahn Builds Reputation As Noted Religious Painter

DRAWN by the Centennial, Utah's sons and daughters have been flocking back home during the summer. One of the most interesting visitors slipped in and away so quietly that art circles of Salt Lake as a whole lost out on meeting a celebrity.

— Velda Buys Gately, now a Californian, is one of the most noted painters of church murals in the country. Interested in church art, as a young girl she studied at the University of Utah and Chicago Art Institute before beginning her career.

So outstanding has been her work that for years she constantly has been busy filling commissions in various parts of the land. She has just completed decorations in the Church of the Transfiguration, Los Angeles, a task of seven long years. Before that she did 30 paintings for St. Anthony's church, Long Beach, Cal.

Her work is not entirely confined to murals—at present two of her paintings are hanging on the staircase leading up from

the Hotel Utah coffee shop. One is a California landscape—a brilliantly colored mountain valley—the other, a ship at sea done after the pointalistic style.

Born in Heber, Mrs. Gately's parents were newspaper publisher William Buys and Sarah Jane McDonald Buys. On her father's death the family moved to Salt Lake.

"Some day," Mrs. Gately said while here, "I should like to paint some of the great scenes from LDS church history."

One admired piece of her work hangs in the McKinley Ward LDS chapel at 1730 State St. The artist will shortly be on her way to the northwest where several large church projects are in view.

Though most painting done by Velda Buys Gately centers about religious themes, the former

Utahn occasionally explores secular art. Above, her "Fishermen," painted in pointalistic style.



"Mountains Canyon," painting which reproduces charm of typically California landscape, done by Velda Buys Gately, church muralist.